

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00161 211506Z

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FDRE-00

HEW-06 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 HA-05 CA-01 SCS-06

EB-08 INRE-00 SSO-00 FBOE-00 A-01 CCO-00 /136 W

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O 211450Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2938

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

US MISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 0027

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS THESSLONIKI 0161

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS:EAID, GR

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE- GREECE

REF: (A) STATE 157251, (B) THESSALONIKI 0158 (C) THESSALONIKI 0159

(D) GENEVA 09387, (E) STATE 157344 (F) BEIRUT 3403

(1) SECSTATE PASS AID (2) USMISSION GENEVA FOR UNDR

1. TOWN LARGELY EMPTIED OF INHABITANTS AS POPULATION AWAITS

NEW TREMORS. SITUATION AT THIS TIME (4 P.M. LOCAL) IS AS
FOLLOWS:

A TOTAL OF ONLY FOUR BUILDINGS HAVE COLLAPSED. HOWEVER ALL
BUILDINGS APPEAR TO HAVE SUFFERED AT LEAST SOME DAMAGE AND
CITY'S CIVIL ENGINEERS ARE BEING MOBILIZED TO ASSESS STRUCTUAL
DAMAGE THROUGHOUT CITY. DESPITE WIDESPREAD DAMAGE THE CITY'S
UTILITIES APPEAR TO BE MORE OR LESS FUNCTIONING NORMALLY.
THE AMERICAN CENTER HAS SUFFERED THE FOLLOWING DAMAGE:

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PAGE 02 THESSA 00161 211506Z

CONSIDERABLE PLASTER HAS FALLEN OFF WALLS, THERE ARE
SEVERAL OVERTURNED BOOKCASES AND BATHROOM TILES HAVE FALLEN
OFF WALLS. THERE ARE ALSO LONG CRACKS IN THE JOYCES NEAR
STRUCTURAL POINTS. IN VIEW OF CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE SUFFERED
BY BOTH CENTER AND CONSULATE GENERAL A VISIT BY FBO ENGINEER
TO POST IS URGENTLY REQUESTED.

2. I HAVE SENT AN FSL TO THE AREA WHERE SEVERAL VILLAGES REPORTEDLY SUSTAINED HEAVY DAMAGE. THESE VILLAGES LOCATED NEAR EPICENTER REPORTEDLY HAD NUMBER OF HOUSES DESTROYED AND NEAR SERRAS ONE DEATH IS REPORTED.

3. AT THIS TIME GOVERNMENT SOURCES ARE STILL REPORTING NINE DEATHS, A REMARKABLE LOW FIGURE GIVEN AN EARTHQUAKE OF SUCH FORCE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL SOME PERSONS NOT ACCOUNTED FOR AND THE FIGURE COULD RISE AS HIGH AS 20. MAJOR PROBLEM FACED BY GREEK AUTHORITIES IS LACK OF EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD. BELIEVE THAT WE COULD MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION THAT WOULD HAVE LASTING EFFECTS VIS-A-VIS GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS BY BRINGING IN A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO TRAIN AND ASSIST GREEKS IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE A CONTINUING SEISMIC PROBLEM.

4. FOR BEIRUT: AVAILABILITY OF TENTS FOR USE OF EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES. LATTER ARE STILL ASSESSING THEIR REQUIREMENTS AND WILL INFORM ME THEIR DECISION AS SOON AS THEY CAN.

5. THERE ARE STILL NO REPORTS OF ANY INJURIES TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE AREA.
ZACHARY

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